



Date: May 24, 2004  
Contact: Dick Kodeski, 406-896-5235

BILLINGS – Pompeys Pillar National Monument will open for the season on Saturday, May 28.

The historic site is 25 miles east of Billings off Interstate 94. It will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from May 28 through Labor Day, and then 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through September. Admission is \$3 per vehicle.

On his return trip, William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition carved his name and the date in the sandstone face of the Pillar. The inscription remains the only physical evidence of the expedition that is still visible on the actual route. Pompeys Pillar was a designated National Landmark prior to becoming a National Monument in January 2001.

The site offers a day use area, visitor center and gift shop. As in past years, the 7 p.m. Friday evening campfire programs will begin in June. The schedule is attached.

According to Monument Manager Dick Kodeski, interest in the Pillar is increasing as a result of the ongoing Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. “We saw a 7 percent increase in visitation last year with 55,000 visitors, and I think we’ll see even more this year,” Kodeski said. “We’re also building a new interpretive center which will be completed in time for the Pompeys Pillar Bicentennial Signature Event in 2006.”

Pompeys Pillar is managed by the Bureau of Land Management with the assistance of the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association, a group of citizen volunteers.

“We’re grateful to Association members for their continued support,” stated Kodeski. “They provide invaluable assistance in the day-to-day operations at the monument.”

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## **2005 Summer Programs at Pompeys Pillar National Monument**

Every Friday night at 7 pm, join us for an evening program presented by guest speakers and park rangers. We are located 25 miles east of Billings, Exit 23 on Interstate 94.

### **JUNE PROGRAMS**

**June 3**

#### **The Crow Perspective on Pompeys Pillar**

*Presented by Elis Goes Ahead*

Explore the culture, oral history and the significance of the Pillar, to the Crow people.

**June 10**

#### **Mapping the Expedition**

*Presented by John LeVar*

Precision and accuracy guided Lewis and Clark 3,700 miles across a continent.

Learn how they accomplished the mapping of an expedition.

**June 17**

#### **Native Dance and Story Telling**

*Presented by Jane Garritson*

Come and learn about the culture and traditions of Native people.

**June 24**

#### **Sign Talkers**

*Presented by Ron Garritson, Park Ranger*

Explore the history, development and use of the Plains Indian sign language.

### **JULY PROGRAMS**

**July 1**

#### **Buffalo!**

*Presented by Ira Juhl*

Learn about these majestic animals and how they controlled the Great Plains.

**July 8**

#### **The Geology of Montana**

*Presented by Larry Field*

Explore the unique geological characteristics of Pompeys Pillar and the Yellowstone Valley.

**July 18-24**

Captain Clark Signature Week-Billings and the surrounding area. Check out the local events for the week of July 17 - 24. Finish the week off with interpretive programs and activities for all: Clark Days at the Pillar, July 23 and 24.

**July 29**

**Heart of Crow Country**

*Presented by Howard Boggess*

Take this opportunity to learn about the Crow people and their connection to this land.

**AUGUST PROGRAMS**

**August 5**

**Family Night at the Pillar: Wildflowers and Prickly Pear**

*Presented by Vicki Thomas and Suzy Havener, Park Ranger*

See and study abundant plant life discovered by Lewis and Clark. Learn how they recorded and preserved the plants for President Jefferson.

**August 12**

**If Names Could Talk...Let's take a walk around the Rock**

*Presented by Suzy Havener, Park Ranger*

Pictographs, petroglyphs and names etched in time on this prominent landmark. Prepare to walk the stairs (a few times) and around Pompeys Pillar. Bring water, good walking shoes and binoculars, if you'd like. Don't shy away if the stairs are a bit much; there's plenty to view around the rock.

**August 19**

**Sergeant Pryor, Bull Boats and Lost Horses**

*Presented by Don Woerner*

Discover how Pompeys Pillar and the Bison contributed to Pryor's way home.

**August 26**

**The Pre-History of Pompeys Pillar**

*Presented by Glade Hadden, BLM Archaeologist*

Take an archaeological trip through time and discover those who traveled the crossroads at Pompeys Pillar.

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